
Manner: UNDETERMINED

Manner of death certified Undetermined refers to circumstances in which available information is insufficient to classify the death into one of the specific manners of natural or unnatural death. Information concerning the circumstances may be lacking because of the absence of background information or witnesses, or because of a lengthy delay between death and discovery of the body. If an extensive investigation and autopsy cannot clarify the circumstances, the death is placed in this category.

Within King County, there were 53 deaths with manner undetermined, accounting for 3% (53/1,683) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 2002. Drugs caused twenty (38%) of the 53 deaths of undetermined manner. For a more detailed review of drug-caused deaths in 2002, see also the discussion in the section on Drugs and Poisons on pages 81 & 82.

Graph 8-1

Undetermined Manner of Death in 2002

Total Number of Undermined Deaths = 53

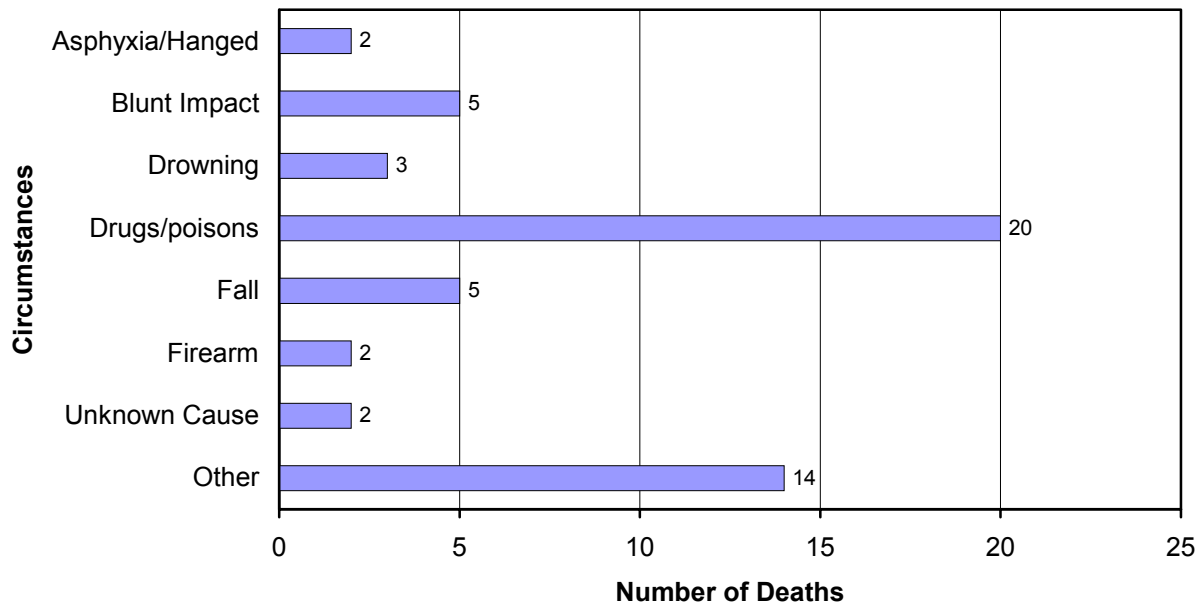
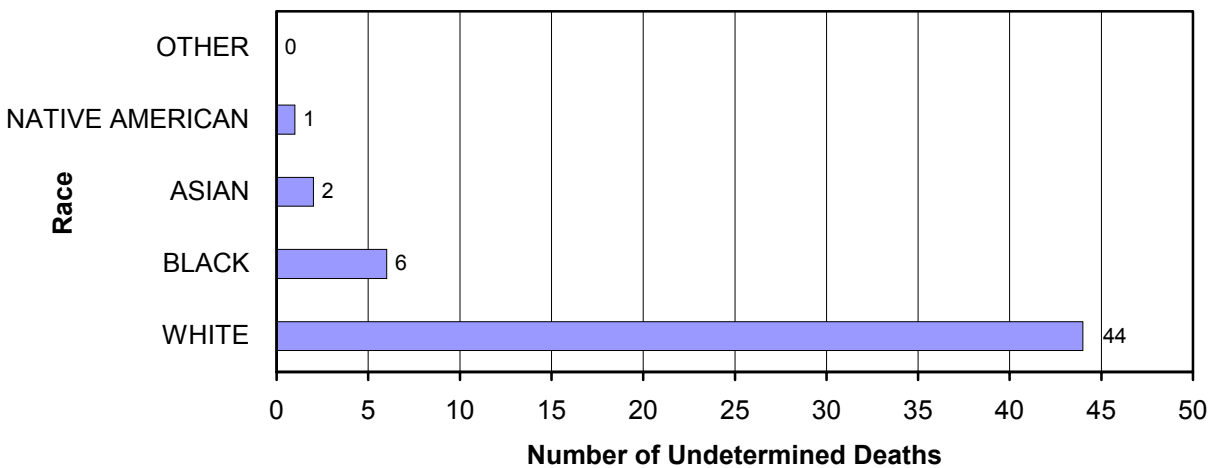


Table 8-1 Undetermined Manner of Death and Race of the Decedent

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia/Hanged	2	0	0	0	0		2
Male	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	0	0	0		0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Blunt Impact	4	1	0	0	0		5
Male	3	0	0	0	0	3	
Female	1	1	0	0	0	2	
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	0	0	0		0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drowned	1	1	1	0	0		3
Male	1	1	1	0	0	3	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drugs/poisons	18	2	0	0	0		20
Male	9	0	0	0	0	9	
Female	9	2	0	0	0	11	
Fall	5	0	0	0	0		5
Male	4	0	0	0	0	4	
Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Firearm	2	0	0	0	0		2
Male	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	
No anatomic or toxicologic cause of death	2	0	0	0	0		2
Male	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Other	10	2	1	1	0		14
Male	7	1	0	0	0	8	
Female	3	1	1	1	0	6	
Total	44	6	2	1	0		53
Percent	83%	11%	4%	2%	0%		

Graph 8-2 Deaths Due to Undetermined Manner of Death
and Race of the Decedent



Graph 8-3 Deaths Due to Undetermined Manner of Death
and Age Group of the Decedent

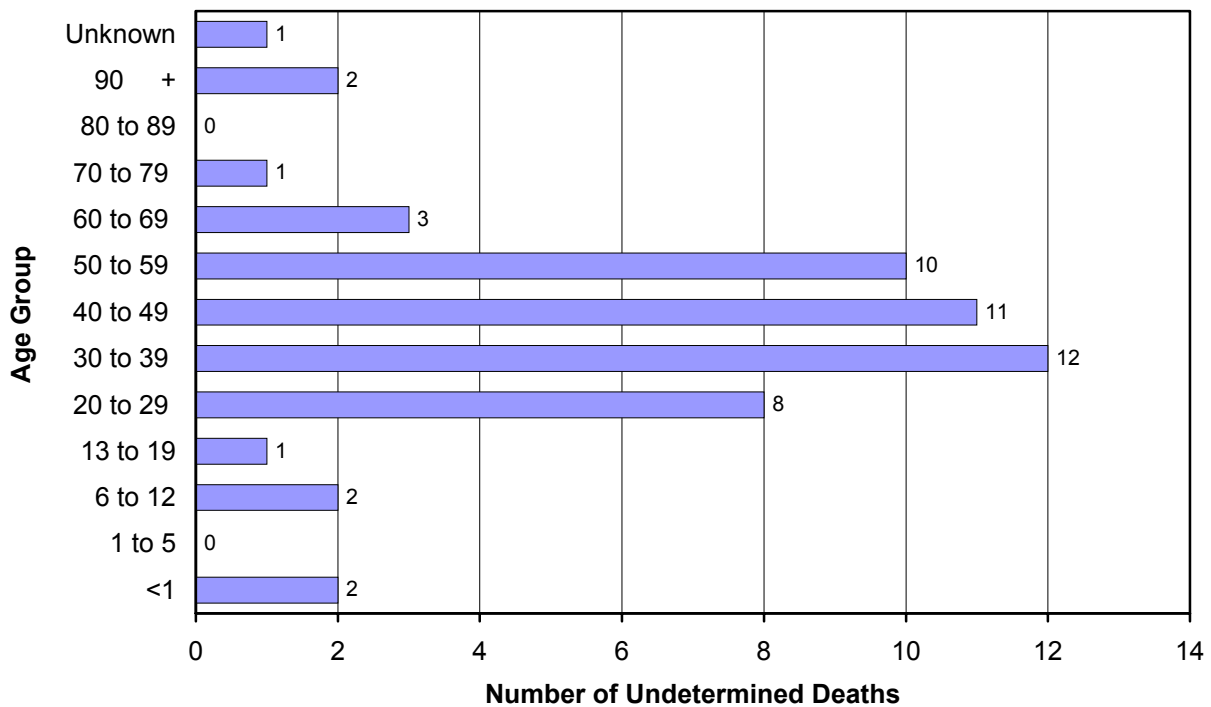


Table 8-2 Undetermined Circumstances and Age Group of the Decedent

INJURY METHOD / GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)													SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	<1	1 to 4	5 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +	U n k		
Asphyxia/Hanged	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		2
Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Blunt Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	0		5
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drowned	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0		3
Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drugs/poisons	0	0	0	0	3	8	5	3	1	0	0	0	0		20
Male	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	
Female	0	0	0	0	2	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	12	
Fall	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1		5
Male	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Firearm	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		2
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
No anatomic or toxicological cause of death	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		2
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Other	2	0	0	1	2	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0		14
Male	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	
Female	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	
Total	2	0	2	1	8	12	11	10	3	1	0	2	1		53
Percent	3.8	0	3.8	1.9	15	23	21	19	5.7	1.9	0	3.8	1.9		

Table 8-3 Undetermined Manner of Death and Gender of the Decedent

INJURY METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia/Hanged	2	0	2
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	0
Blunt Impact	3	2	5
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	0
Drowning	3	0	3
Drugs/poisons	9	11	20
Fall	4	1	5
Firearm	1	1	2
No anatomic or toxicologic cause of death	1	1	2
Other	8	6	14
Total	31	22	53
Percent	58	42	

Table 8-4 Undetermined Manner of Death and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent

METHOD	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Asphyxia/Hanged	0	2	0	2
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	0	0
Blunt Impact	0	3	2	5
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	0	0
Drowning	0	3	0	3
Drugs/poisons	7	12	1	20
Fall	2	3	0	5
Firearm	0	2	0	2
No anatomic or toxicologic cause of death	0	2	0	2
Other	1	8	5	14
Total	10	35	8	53